



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

BOOK NOTICES.

THE AMERICAN GLOSSARY OF ARCHITECTURAL TERMS, being a concise and comprehensive compilation of all terms used in the practice of Architecture and the Building Arts. By GEO. O. GARNSEY, Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Garnsey's long experience as an architect and an editor of "The National Builder," has enabled him to compile a work which is of extreme value, not only to practical architects but to the general reader, and especially to any one interested in architectural studies. It is of course easy to pick out flaws in a work containing many thousands of definitions, and carefully as this has been compiled it has its share of errors. For instance, to take the very first page, there is no such word as "abscissa," the derivation itself showing the proper spelling. Moreover "an intercepted axis" is in no sense a definition of the word. Neither does the phrase "An Italian term for carving" give any idea of "Intaglio," the whole point that of a hollow cutting as contradistinguished from "Cameo," a relief carving being entirely lost. Defining the word "Dwelling-house" as "a private residence," and giving a picture of a modern mansion of the Wabash Avenue type, lends an appearance of padding, which adds no value to a book which needs no padding. Except a few such minor faults we find everything to commend in Mr. Garnsey's volume. He has produced a work better than anything in its line that has gone before, and one which certainly should find a place in every well selected library.

THE "SPRAGUE" CHECK BOOK.—This ingenious device has proved so useful to us in our own office work, has saved so much friction, worry and labor, that we feel it a duty, after a trial of six months, to make it better known to all of our readers who are in business or who employ a bank account (as who does not?) in their private affairs.

The traditional check-book is the most awkward of all books. It spreads all over the desk, occupying twice the width of any other book. It cannot be made to lie out flat and behave itself like an ordinary book, but, being "whip-stitched," its constant tendency is to "flop" together and blot the writing or the stub. When done with, and ready to go on the shelf, it is a volume of ragged stubs, with two clumsy, projecting flapping covers, which can only be gotten rid of by mutilation.

The "Sprague" check-book is the invention of Mr. Charles E. Sprague, an experienced accountant of this city and the Secretary of the Union Dime Savings' Institution. It was evolved by him in the course of his own office practice, as the result of

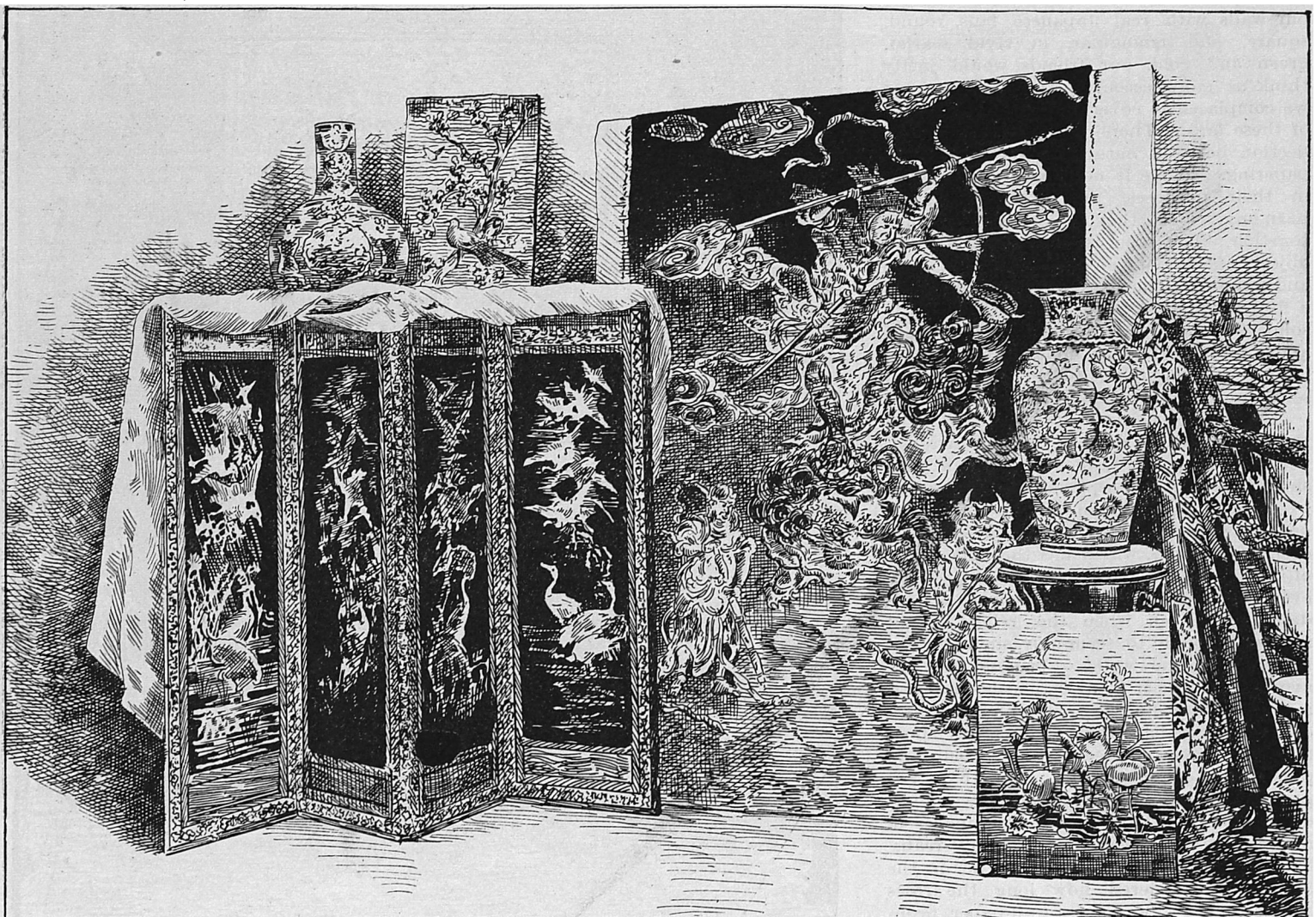
careful study. As the book is opened it is in the shape of an ordinary cap or demy account book, and lies flat like any other book. The left hand page is devoted to columns for "Deposits" and "Checks," such as ordinarily occupy the reverse and obverse of the stub; the checks appear on the right hand page only and fill every alternate leaf. In short, it is a stubless check-book interleaved with record pages. There is a very narrow stub, which is utilized for a column headed "Balances and Computations," in which a running balance of the bank account is kept, independently of the regular Dr. and Cr. columns on the left hand page, which it verifies. Thus, a systematic account with the bank being kept here, it is quite unnecessary to keep any bank account in the ledger.

This form of the book is so vastly superior to the old one, both as to mere convenience of handling and as to systematic arrangement of figures, that nobody who has used it can be induced to go back to the old singing-book style. But this is not the limit of its advantages. Every check drawn has to go ultimately to the debit of some account or accounts, and so conversely with the deposits. It has always been customary to rewrite the entire contents of the check-book into the cash-book; in fact this was about the only practicable way, as the size and manner of construction of the old check-book made it nearly impossible to use it as a book from which to post. But with the Sprague check-book this difficulty disappears. We find bookkeepers who use it dispensing entirely or in part with the cash-book, thus saving most valuable time and also avoiding error, the chance of which is increased by every transcription.

Thus the cash-book and the journal are practically eliminated. In the special form devised by Mr. Sprague for our own business, the Petty Cash account occupies part of the right hand page which follows the back of the check. Thus the entire cash transactions are comprised in this one book. All the particulars of any such transaction are found more readily in its pages than anywhere else, so that we have come to look upon it as an encyclopedia of our business.

At the extreme right of the right hand or fourth page of each sheet, are two "classifying columns" divided off into sections in a novel manner, which serve to consolidate all the entries which are destined to reach any one of the more actual accounts of the ledger, so that at the end of the month only a single posting, instead of a number of small ones, is required, and the bookkeeper's labor is minimized.

Mr. Sprague is ready to furnish samples and explanations to any business house which would like to introduce his system, his address for that purpose being corner 32d Street and 6th Av.



JAPANESE CURIOS, IMPORTED BY ROTHMAN, STROME & CO.